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CONFIDENTIAL.

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PART II.

FURTHER CORRESPONDENCE

RESPECTING

RED SEA LIGHTS.

156

1900.

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CONFIDENTIAL.

Further Correspondence respecting Red Sea Lights.

Part II.

No. 1.

Board of Trade to Foreign Office.—(*Received January* 20.)

Sir, *Board of Trade, January* 19, 1900.

WITH reference to previous correspondence on the subject of the establishment of additional lights in the Red Sea, I am directed by the Board of Trade to transmit to you, herewith, to be laid before the Marquess of Salisbury, extract from a letter from the Liverpool Chamber of Commerce asking for certain information with regard to the matter; and I am to request that you will move Lord Salisbury to be good enough to cause the Board to be informed what answer should be given to the Chamber of Commerce.

A copy of the letter referred to in this communication is also inclosed.

I am, &c.
(Signed) P. H. W. PELHAM.

Inclosure 1 in No. 1.

Board of Trade to Liverpool Chamber of Commerce.

Sir, *Board of Trade, November* 17, 1899.

WITH reference to your letter of the 2nd instant, and to your inquiry whether any steps have recently been taken to place light-ships off Mocha and Abu Ail and a light on the Island of Jeb-el-Teir, I am directed by the Board of Trade to state, for the information of the Liverpool Chamber of Commerce, that negotiations have been for some time past, and still are, in progress with a view to the erection of light-houses in the lower part of the Red Sea.

Until some more definite stage is arrived at in these proceedings the alternative scheme of establishing light-ships in certain localities is postponed.

With regard to the light at Balfe Point, Island of Perim, to which reference is also made in your communication, I am to state that the Board are advised that this is merely a small guarding light to assist vessels approaching or leaving Perim Harbour, and is not intended as a "making" or "landfall" light for vessels using the Western Channel.

Any representation for the improvement of this light in order to make it a "landfall" light appears to the Board to be a matter for the Government of India to deal with.

I am, &c.
(Signed) FRANCIS J. S. HOPWOOD.

Inclosure 2 in No. 1.

Liverpool Chamber of Commerce to Mr. Ritchie.

Sir, *Liverpool, January* 11, 1900.

SINCE the receipt of your letter on the subject of the lighting of the Red Sea, dated the 17th November last, this Chamber has been in communication with the Bengal Chamber on the same ubject

That Chamber states that they were given to understand "That Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople had reported that the Sublime Porte had come to an arrangement with the Administration des Phares for the construction of four light-houses at Mocha, Zebair, Abu Ail, and Jeb-el-Teir."

I am, therefore, to ask whether this statement is correct, and whether the Turkish Light-house Administration is proceeding with the lights.

If not, I am to ask whether Her Majesty's Government can bring pressure to bear upon the Turkish Government in order that the works may be proceeded with.

I am, &c.

(Signed) THOMAS W. BARKER,
Secretary.

No. 2.

Foreign Office to Board of Trade.

Sir, *Foreign Office, January* 26, 1900.

WITH reference to your letter of the 19th instant, respecting the establishment of additional lights in the Red Sea, I am directed by the Marquess of Salisbury to suggest that a reply to the following effect should be sent to the Liverpool Chamber of Commerce on this subject.

The Turkish Government notified the proposed construction of four lights in the Red Sea, but subsequently suggested a tariff of light dues for this service which appeared to be prejudicial to British shipping.

In September, 1899, Her Majesty's Government declined to assent to this tariff, and no further communication has since been received from the Porte.

The matter will, however, not be lost sight of.

I am, &c.

(Signed) MARTIN GOSSELIN.

No. 3.

Viscount Cromer to Foreign Office.—(Received March .)

Sir, *Cairo, March* 11, 1900.

JUST as the mail is leaving, I receive a letter from O'Conor, inclosing from the Consul of Jeddah, from which it appears that a French ship, the "Elodi," with an officer in the Turkish service, is beginning to lay down material for the construction of the Red Sea lights.

O'Conor has, without doubt, reported this home.

If the Turks and the French together like to construct the lights, by all means let them do so; but it might perhaps be as well to consider the desirability of reminding the Porte that we will not consent to any additional tax on shipping.

I have, &c.

(Signed) CROMER.

No. 4.

Question asked in the House of Commons, March 22, 1900.

Mr. Charles McArthur.—To ask the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, if he can say what progress has been made in the construction of the four new light-houses in the Red Sea, viz., those at Mocha, Zebair, Abu Ail, and Jeb-el-Teir, which, it was stated last year, had been arranged for by the Porte with the Administration des Phares.

Answer.

No progress in regard to the construction of these four new lights has been reported to Her Majesty's Government.

No. 5.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir N. O'Conor.

(No. 1. Commercial.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, March* 22, 1900.

LIGHTS for the Red Sea.

Referring to the letter which your Excellency wrote to Lord Cromer, I request that you will bring to the recollection of the Porte the protest against the imposition of additional dues which I made in my note to the Turkish Embassy in London (refer to my despatch of the 7th September, 1899, No. 95, Commercial). You should repeat that Her Majesty's Government cannot consent to British shipping being subjected to the dues.

No. 6.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received March* 28.)

(No. 33. Commercial.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, March* 24, 1900.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, copy of a note which I have addressed to the Sublime Porte in accordance with the instructions contained in your Lordship's telegram No 1, Commercial, of the 22nd instant, respecting Red Sea lights.

I have, &c.

(For the Ambassador),
(Signed) G. BARCLAY.

Inclosure in No. 6.

Sir N. O'Conor to Tewfik Pasha.

M. le Ministre, *Constantinople, March* 24, 1900.

IT will doubtless be within your Excellency's recollection that on the occasion of my inquiries in May, 1899, respecting the Convention recently concluded between the Ottoman Government and the Administration des Phares for the construction of four light-houses in the Red Sea, your Excellency was so good as to assure me through the medium of Mr. Block, Chief Dragoman at the Embassy, that no fresh dues would be imposed in respect of the new light-houses.

In view of this assurance, which I duly reported to Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, it was with much surprise that I learnt subsequently from his Lordship that the Ottoman Ambassador in London had on the 19th July, 1899, addressed to Her Majesty's Government a note with regard to a new

* Copy to Board of Trade, April 3, 1900.

Tariff drawn up by the Administration des Phares, to meet the expense and the maintenance of the light-houses in question.

The recent visit to the Red Sea of the "Elodi" belonging to the Administration des Phares, leads to the supposition that the work of constructing the new light-houses is about to be commenced, and I have now the honour, in obedience to instructions from my Government, to recall the attention of the Ottoman Government to the terms of the reply returned by the Marquess of Salisbury to Anthopoulo Pasha's above-mentioned communication, and to repeat that Her Majesty's Government cannot consent to the imposition of the proposed additional dues on British shipping.

I avail, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

No. 7.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir N. O'Conor.

(No. 27. Commercial.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, April 2, 1900.*

I HAVE to acknowledge the receipt of your Excellency's despatch No. 33, Commercial, of the 24th ultimo, respecting the construction of light-houses in the Red Sea.

The terms of the note which you have addressed to the Turkish Government on the subject are approved by Her Majesty's Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 8.

Board of Trade to Foreign Office.—(Received April 30.)*

(Confidential.)
(Extract.) *Board of Trade, April 28, 1900.*

I AM directed by the Board of Trade to acknowledge the receipt of your letters of the 14th and 17th instant, with further reference to the Turkish proposals to increase provisionally the rate of customs duty from 8 to 11 per cent., and to resume negotiations for the conclusion of Commercial Treaties, and for the introduction of a specific Tariff.

With reference to the queries contained in your letters, and also to previous correspondence on this subject, I am directed to offer the following observations:—

1. As regards the matters affecting British trade and shipping on which it is desirable, if possible to arrive at a better understanding with the Turkish Government as a condition of agreeing to the present proposal to increase the Turkish customs duties, I am to make the following suggestions:

(*b.*) Another question of great interest to British ship-owners is the improvement of the lighting of the Red Sea. The Board understand that a Convention was recently entered into between the Ottoman Government and the "Administration des Phares" to erect four lights within five years from the present time, and that it was proposed by the Turkish Government to raise a revenue from additional light dues at the rate of $\frac{3}{4}d.$ per ton of shipping. In September last, however, Her Majesty's Government declined to agree to the Turkish proposals to levy additional dues, and the Board of Trade are not clear whether or not the result of this refusal has been to invalidate the contract and to postpone the erection of the new lights. They consider, therefore, that the present is a suitable opportunity to make inquiries on this point, and to obtain a definite assurance from the Turkish Government, as part of the consideration for agreeing to the raising of the customs duties, that the new lights will be erected without delay and without entailing the levying of any additional dues on British shipping.

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* Copy to India Office, May 8, 1900.

No. 9.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir N. O'Conor.

(No. 9. Commercial.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, May 9, 1900.*

WITH reference to your Excellency's despatch No. 63:

Could not your Excellency, if Her Majesty's Government agree to increase of the Turkish import duties, secure categorical assurances that the construction of the four Red Sea lights shall be forthwith proceeded with without extra dues, and that the Sanitary dues shall be reduced in amount, reserving the question of specific rates on cottons for ulterior consideration?

I have to request your Excellency to report telegraphically how far you think that any difficulties would arise if these points (or the first only) are raised in connection with the Tariff increase which the Porte proposes to adopt.

No. 10.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir N. O'Conor.

(No. 45 A. Commercial.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, May 9, 1900.*

WITH reference to my telegram No. 9, Commercial, of to-day's date, I transmit herewith a copy of a letter from the Board of Trade* containing the Board's suggestions as to the conditions on which Her Majesty's Government might consent to the increase of the import duties from 8 to 11 per cent. and to the later adoption of the draft Tariff of specific duties.

It would be especially desirable if this opportunity could be taken to come to some definite arrangement in regard to the Red Sea lights; but I leave it to your Excellency's discretion whether either that question or the proposal respecting the reduction of Sanitary dues could now be raised with advantage in connection with the Ottoman Customs Tariff; and I shall be glad to learn your Excellency's views on this point by telegram.

The question of obtaining satisfaction of pending claims such as those for losses of British subjects during the Armenian disturbances at Constantinople and elsewhere, should be borne in mind as a possible alternative. But it seems to me to come in second rank, in view especially of the difficulty which you apprehend in obtaining unanimous support of the Representatives of the Powers.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 11.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Salisbury.†—(Received May 10.)

(No. 19. Commercial.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, May 10, 1900.*

PROPOSED increase of import duties: Your Lordship's telegram, Commercial, No. 9, of yesterday.

The importance of establishing the principle that no customs duties shall be levied except with the previous consent of the Powers, and the necessity of not raising fresh difficulties, seemed so urgent to the Ambassadors, that they decided to restrict the subject of their demands to purely custom-house questions, and even a proposal to include the abolition of the stamp tax was rejected.

I feel also that my colleagues would not adopt any suggestion regarding the Red Sea lights, and it would seem inopportune at the present moment when the appearance of plague is reported from Smyrna to make any demand for the reduction of Sanitary dues. The best course, I think, is that our proposals should be sanctioned.

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* No. 8. † Copy to India Office, Colonial Office, and Board of Trade, May 12, 1900.

No 12.

Memorandum by Sir H. Bergne on Sir N. O'Conor's Telegram of May 10, 1900.

I WISH to submit some reasons why we may fairly urge the question of Red Sea lights in connection with an increase of customs dues :—

1. The proposed augmentation of customs from 8 to 11 per cent. will give the Porte a large additional revenue, a great part of which will be borne by British trade.

2. Under the new Lighthouse Concession to MM. Collas, which, I believe, came into operation last year, the Porte takes 50 per cent. of the light dues, clear, without any outgoings whatever, for twenty-five years.

3. We agreed to this new Concession only on certain conditions, viz. :—

(*a.*) Reduction of dues by 10 per cent. for first ten years, and 20 per cent. for next fifteen years.

(*b.*) Construction of two new lighthouses in the Island of Crete.

(*c.*) An understanding that MM. Collas (the concessionnaires) made no objection to any arrangement between Great Britain and Turkey as to Red Sea lights.

We have not yet heard that either condition (*a*) or (*b*) have been fulfilled.

4. British ships pay, I believe, at least two-thirds of the light dues, and Great Britain is thus much more interested than any other Power in securing the proper lighting of the Red Sea without extra charge.

5. In view of these considerations, it would seem that we should be fully justified in making our consent to the increased Tariff subject to an undertaking that the four lights in the Red Sea be forthwith constructed without extra charge, and this even if no other Power desired to insist on a similar condition.

It might be urged that compliance with so reasonable a request would merely be carrying out the spirit of the arrangement with the Porte of 1896 (see note of Turkish Ambassador of the 8th October, 1896, and our reply) ; and, further, would only be giving effect to what was actually promised to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople a short time ago, when it was stated that the four lights in the Red Sea would be constructed without any fresh dues.

I feel sure that if we do not urge this point the shipping trade will attack us bitterly.

H. G. B.

Foreign Office, May 11, 1900.

No. 13.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir N. O'Conor.

(No 10. Commercial.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, May 13, 1900.*

WITH reference to your Commercial telegram of the 10th instant :

The immediate construction of the four lights in the Red Sea is stated by the French Ambassador here to have been already decided upon. He also states that an engineer was deputed to make preparatory surveys some time ago.

I have to request that you will endeavour to ascertain how this is.

No. 14.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received May 14.)

(No. 20. Commercial.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, May 14, 1900.*

WITH reference to the subject of your Lordship's telegram, No. 10, Commercial, of yesterday, I learn from the Minister for Foreign Affairs that the construction of the four lighthouses have been commenced.

It has been decided by the Council of Ministers that no fresh dues will be imposed, but an effort to get dues for the maintenance of the personnel is still being made by the Minister of Marine.

I have recalled Tewfik Pasha's attention to my note of the 24th March last.

No. 15.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received May 15.)

Sir, *India Office, May 14, 1900.*

I AM directed by the Secretary of State for India to offer the following remarks on the papers received with your letter, dated the 8th May last, concerning proposed changes in the Turkish import Tariff.

The value of Indian goods exported to the Turkish dominions (not including Egypt) averages annually about 570,000*l.** As regards the general Tariff, India will be content to come under any Turkish Tariff that may be accepted in behalf of the United Kingdom ; but I am to support the recommendation of the Board of Trade that effort should be made that the valuation of goods under the Tariff shall be as far as possible in accord with actual facts.

Lord George Hamilton also strongly supports the suggestion of the Board of Trade that opportunity be taken to secure, as a condition of England's recognizing the new Tariff, that the promised new lighthouses in the Red Sea should be established by the Porte as soon as possible, and maintained without the levy of any fresh dues on shipping. The early improvement of the lighting of the lower part of the Red Sea is a matter of great importance to Indian trade.

The Turkish Sanitary dues are not of such great importance to India as the lighting of the Red Sea ; but Lord George Hamilton desires me to add that he supports the recommendation of the Board of Trade on this point also.

I am, &c.
(Signed) A. GODLEY.

No. 16.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir N. O'Conor.

(No. 11. Commercial.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, May 15, 1900.*

ACCORDING to the arrangement arrived at in notes exchanged with the Turkish Ambassador on the 8th and 10th October, 1896, the reduction of 10 per cent. in the Ottoman light dues should have commenced on the 4th September, 1899.

Has this been done ?

No. 17.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir N. O'Conor.

(No. 48. Commercial. Confidential.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, May 15, 1900.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 45, Commercial, of the 9th instant, I transmit herewith, for your information, a copy of a letter from the India Office in connection with the negotiations respecting the proposed increase of the Turkish Tariff.†

I also inclose a copy of a Memorandum prepared in this Department on the subject of Red Sea lights.‡

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 18.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received May 17.)

(No. 22. Commercial.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, May 17, 1900.*

REDUCTION on light dues, referred to in your Lordship's telegram No. 11, was made on the 4th September.

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* 50,000*l.* to Turkey in Europe, and 520,000*l.* to Turkey in Asia. † No. 15. ‡ No. 12.

No. 19.

Foreign Office to Board of Trade.

(Confidential.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, May* 21, 1900.

WITH reference to the letter from this Office of the 17th instant, respecting the proposed increase of the Turkish import duties, I am directed by the Marquess of Salisbury to state that Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople has reported by telegraph that according to the Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs the construction of the four proposed lighthouses in the Red Sea has already begun; and that the Council of Ministers has decided that no additional dues shall be imposed, although the Minister of Finance was pressing for an increase to cover the cost of maintenance.

Sir N. O'Conor further reports that, in pursuance of the arrangement recorded in the notes exchanged in London on the 8th and 10th October, the reduction of 10 per cent. in the Ottoman light dues duly took place on the 4th September, 1899.

I am, &c.

(Signed) MARTIN GOSSELIN.

No. 20.

Board of Trade to Foreign Office.—(*Received May* 26.)

Sir, *Board of Trade, May* 25, 1900.

REFERRING to previous correspondence respecting the proposed increase of import duties in Turkey, and especia" 'o your letters of the 12th, 17th, and 21st instant, I am now directed by the Board of 'e to state that, having regard to the special circumstances of the case, they con 'h Sir N. O'Conor's views in regard to this matter as expressed in his despatch of ... 2nd instant and his telegram of the 10th instant.

In view of Sir N. O'Conor's opinion that it would not be possible to secure unanimity on the part of the Ambassadors in support of any further conditions than those specified in his despatch, the Board agree that the question of Sanitary dues should not be pressed at the present moment in connection with the Turkish proposal to raise the rates of import duties. They note with satisfaction that, as stated in your letter of the 21st instant, the construction of the four proposed lighthouses in the Red Sea has already been begun, and that the Council of Ministers have decided not to collect any additional dues in connection therewith.

The Board assume that the communications of Tewfik Pasha to Sir N. O'Conor on this last point may be regarded as an assurance that no proposal for the collection of additional dues will be made by the Turkish Government.

I am, &c.

(Signed) A. E. BATEMAN.

No. 21.

Board of Trade to Foreign Office.—(*Received May* 26.)

Sir, *Board of Trade, May* 25, 1900.

I AM directed by the Board of Trade to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 16th instant, in which you transmit copy of a despatch from Lord Cromer, inclosing print of the Annual Report of the Egyptian Ports and Lighthouses Administration, and, in reply, I am to request that you will be good enough to inform the Board whether the reduction of light dues, referred to in your letter of the 6th July, 1897, as being fixed for the 1st September, 1897, actually came into force on that date.

I am, &c.

(Signed) T. H. W. PELHAM.

No. 22.

*Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Salisbury.**—(*Received May* 28.)

(No. 76. Commercial.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, May* 21, 1900.

WITH reference to your Lordship's Confidential despatch No. 48, Commercial, dated the 15th instant, I have the honour to report that, in reply to my inquiries, the Minister for Foreign Affairs again assured me this morning that he did not believe any fresh or extra dues would be levied on account of the new lighthouses in the Red Sea.

His Excellency repeated that the Minister of Marine was desirous to obtain a small increase, but that he had explained to him the strong objections entertained by Her Majesty's Government to any augmentation of these dues and the difficulties in the way, and he believed I need have no anxiety on the subject.

Tewfik Pasha added that the cost of construction would be borne by the Ottoman Government, who would get an advance from the Société des Phares for the purpose and recoup themselves in course of time from the present lighthouse dues paid to the Imperial Government.

The French Ambassador is evidently contented to see the question settled in this way, and the Société des Phares has such a profitable business that they can well afford to bear the small extra cost without complaint.

I have already, in my telegram No. 22, Commercial, of the 17th instant, explained my reasons for thinking that a proposal for the reduction of the Sanitary dues, in connection with the proposed increase of the import duties, would neither be opportune nor acceptable to the majority of my colleagues.

I have, &c.

(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

No. 23.

Foreign Office to Board of Trade.

Sir, *Foreign Office, May* 29, 1900.

IN reply to your letter of the 25th instant requesting information as to the reduction of light dues in Egypt, I am directed by the Marquess of Salisbury to transmit to you, for the information of the Board of Trade, a copy of Lord Cromer's Report on Egypt for the year 1897 (No. 1 of 1898), and to draw your attention to the statement on the subject on p. 13.

I am, &c.

(Signed) MARTIN GOSSELIN.

No. 24.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir N. O'Conor.

No. 54. Commercial.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, May* 31, 1900.

WITH reference to your Excellency's despatch No. 64, Commercial, of the 2nd instant, respecting the proposed increase of the import duties in Turkey, I transmit herewith a copy of a letter from the Board of Trade expressing their concurrence in your views.

I request that your Excellency will report whether, in your opinion, it can be assumed with certainty that the proposal to levy extra duties in respect of the construction and maintenance of the four new lighthouses in the Red Sea has been definitely abandoned.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

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* Copy to Cairo and Board of Trade, June 2, 1900.

† No. 20.

No. 25.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received June* 18.)

(No. 85. Commercial.)

My Lord, *Therapia, June* 8, 1900.

IN the course of an interview with the Minister for Foreign Affairs yesterday I reminded his Excellency of the assurances he had given me, and which I had duly communicated to your Lordship, that no fresh dues would be levied on account of the construction or maintenance of the new lighthouses in the Red Sea.

I pointed out that the representatives of the British shipping interest, who were already heavily burdened, were anxious to hear that the question had been definitely settled, and that I should be glad to receive a formal written assurance in accordance with his verbal communications.

Tewfik Pasha replied that he would address a note to me without delay. I said that this would be well, but that his Excellency must clearly understand that the assurances already given by him were regarded as binding, and that Her Majesty's Government could not consent under any circumstances to new duties on this score, whatever efforts might be made by the Ottoman Minister of Marine to effect this end.

I thought it advisable on my return to request Mr. Block to endeavour to see a copy of the proposed note from the Sublime Porte, and to assure himself, before it was actually sent, that it was in accordance with the language held to me by Tewfik Pasha.

I have, &c.

(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

No. 26.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir N. O'Conor.

(No. 69. Commercial.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, June* 21, 1900.

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch No. 85, Commercial, of the 8th instant, reporting that you have requested the Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs to give a formal assurance in writing to the effect that no fresh dues would be levied on account of the construction or maintenance of the new lighthouses in the Red Sea.

Your Excellency's action in this matter, as reported in the despatch above referred to, is approved.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 27.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Salisbury.†—(*Received June* 25.)

(No. 99 Commercial.)

My Lord, *Therapia, June* 20, 1900.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's despatch No. 54, Commercial, of the 31st ultimo, inquiring whether, in my opinion, it can be assumed with certainty that the proposal to levy extra dues in respect of the construction and maintenance of the four new lighthouses in the Red Sea has been definitely abandoned.

I do not know that I have anything to add to my despatch No. 85 of the 8th instant, in which I reported a conversation with the Minister for Foreign Affairs on this subject, except that my latest information leaves me in some doubt whether, notwithstanding Tewfik Pasha's statement, reported in my telegram No. 20 of the 14th ultimo, the construction of the lighthouses has yet been begun.

* Copy to Board of Trade, June 21, 1900.
† Copy to Cairo and to Board of Trade, June 29, 1900.

I am watching the question of the dues closely, and although I am unable as yet to report that the Government has finally decided in the matter, or that I have received the promised reply to my *note verbale* of the 24th March, I have no reason to fear an unfavourable decision; indeed, the Directeur de l'Administration des Phares told Mr. Weakley, only a day or two ago, that no fresh dues would be levied.

I have, &c.

(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

No. 28.

*London Chamber of Commerce to the Marquess of Salisbury.**—(*Received August* 1.)

Your Lordship, *Botolph House, Eastcheap, E.C., July* 31, 1900.

WE have the honour to transmit to your Lordship the following Resolution bearing on the subject of the better lighting of the Red Sea, which Resolution was unanimously passed at the Fourth Congress of Chambers of Commerce of the Empire, June last:—

"That, in the opinion of this Congress, the provision of further lights in the Red Sea, and the improvement of some of those already existing, is a matter of the highest importance to the interests of the Empire; that representation be accordingly made to Her Majesty's Government for the immediate construction, either with or without the assistance or concurrence of the Ottoman Government, of lighthouses at Mocha, Zebeyr, Aby Ali, and Jeb-il-Tir, or the placing of light-ships at the points named. Also for the improvement of the present Balfe Point light, or the substitution of a better one on the Island of Perim as a guide to vessels using the wider passage in the Straits of Bab-el-Mandeb."

In transmitting the Resolution to your Lordship we are desired to point out the great necessity which exists for the proper lighting of the Red Sea, which is the highway to the British Empire in the East, and to the Colonies.

We feel certain, therefore, that the Resolution will commend itself to the favourable consideration of Her Majesty's Government.

We have, &c.

(Signed) ALBERT G. SANDEMAN, *President.*
KENRIC B. MURRAY, *Secretary.*

No. 29.

Foreign Office to London Chamber of Commerce.

Sir, *Foreign Office, August* 8, 1900.

I AM directed by the Marquess of Salisbury to inform you that Her Majesty's Government will give their careful consideration to the Resolution of the Congress of the Chambers of Commerce of the British Empire, inclosed in your letter of the 31st ultimo, with regard to the importance of providing further lights and improving some of those already existing in the Red Sea.

I am, &c.

(Signed) MARTIN GOSSELIN.

No. 30.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(*Received August* 24.)

Sir, *India Office, August* 23, 1900.

I AM directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 8th August, 1900, forwarding a copy of a Resolution of the Congress of Chambers of Commerce of the Empire, regarding the need for the better lighting of the Red Sea.

With reference to the question of additional lighthouses on Turkish territory in the Red Sea—a question which does not specially concern the Government of India—

* Copy to India Office and to Board of Trade, August 8, 1900.

it is observed from the papers received with your letter of the 25th July, 1900, that the Turkish Government has already commenced the construction of four light-houses.

With regard to that portion of the Resolution which urges an improvement of the light on Balfe Point, in the Island of Perim, or the substitution of a better one, Lord George Hamilton will communicate with the Government of India, to whom the question of the improvement of the lights of Aden and Perim has recently been referred for consideration.

I am, &c.
(Signed) A. GODLEY.

No. 31.

Liverpool Underwriters' Association to Foreign Office.—(*Received November* 1.)

Sir, *Exchange Buildings, Liverpool, October* 31, 1900.

THE Committee for managing the affairs of this Association, having for a number of years taken an active interest in the question of the better lighting of the Red Sea, observe, with much satisfaction in the "Shipping Gazette" of yesterday's date, that information has been received by your Department indicating that the Ottoman Government have at last begun the construction of four lights in the Red Sea, viz., at Mocha, Abu Ail, Zabeyz, and Jebel Tier.

May I beg that you will be so good as to confirm or otherwise the Report which I have referred to above.

I am, &c.
(Signed) T. A. BELLIS, *Secretary.*

Inclosure in No. 31.

Extract from the "Shipping Gazette and Lloyd's List" of October 30, 1900.

WE learn that the Chamber of Shipping of the United Kingdom has received information from the Government that the Ottoman Government have begun the construction of four lights in the Red Sea, viz., at Mocha, Abu Ail, Zabeyz, and Jabel Tier. It will be satisfactory to British ship-owners to remember that the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs announced in the House of Commons on the 11th May, 1899, that the above-named four new lights "would be kept up by the Turkish Government, and no new taxes will be levied on shipping on account of them."

No. 32.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Mr. de Bunsen.

(No. 126. Commercial.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, November* 8, 1900.

WITH reference to Sir N. O'Conor's despatch No. 99, Commercial, of the 20th June last, relative to the proposed new lighthouses in the Red Sea, I transmit herewith copy of a letter from the Liverpool Underwriters' Association on the subject.*

I request that you will report how the matter now stands.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

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* No. 31.

No. 33.

Foreign Office to Liverpool Underwriters' Association.

Sir, *Foreign Office, November* 8, 1900.

IN reply to your letter of the 31st ultimo, I am directed by the Marquess of Salisbury to inform you that Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople reported in June last that it seemed uncertain whether the construction of the four new lighthouses in the Red Sea had been begun.

Her Majesty's Embassy will be instructed to report how the matter stands.

I am, &c.
(Signed) MARTIN GOSSELIN.

No. 34.

*Mr. de Bunsen to the Marquess of Lansdowne.**—(*Received November* 26.)

(No. 156. Commercial.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, November* 18, 1900.

ON receipt of your Lordship's despatch No. 126, Commercial, of the 8th instant, I caused inquiries to be made at the "Administration des Phares" relative to the construction of the new lighthouses in the Red Sea, and I have the honour to report that it is expected that, though actual building has not yet been commenced, the first steps for that purpose would be taken in a month or six weeks.

The preparation and collection of material are being actively pushed on in France, and the lighthouses are to be constructed at the earliest possible moment.

I have, &c.
(Signed) M. DE BUNSEN.

No. 35.

Foreign Office to Liverpool Underwriters' Association.

Sir, *Foreign Office, December* 3, 1900.

WITH reference to your letter of the 31st October last, I am directed by the Marquess of Lansdowne to inform you that a despatch has been received from Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople, in which Mr. de Bunsen reports that, according to information which he had received from the "Administration des Phares," though the actual building of the new lighthouses in the Red Sea had not yet been commenced, the first steps for that purpose would be taken in a month or six weeks, and the preparation and collection of material was being actively advanced.

I am, &c.
(Signed) MARTIN GOSSELIN.

No. 36.

Liverpool Underwriters' Association to Foreign Office.—(*Received December* 6.)

Sir, *Exchange Buildings, Liverpool, December* 5, 1900.

I AM instructed by the Committee for managing the affairs of this Association to acknowledge your communication of the 3rd instant, and to thank you for the information it contained.

I am, &c.
(Signed) T. A. BELLIS, *Secretary.*

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* Copy to Cairo, India Office, and Board of Trade, December 3, 1900.

No. 37.

*Mr. de Bunsen to the Marquess of Lansdowne.**—(*Received December* 31.)

(No. 174. Commercial.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, December* 24, 1900.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 156, Commercial, of the 13th ultimo, I have the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith an extract from the "Levant Herald" of the 19th instant, stating that the construction of four lighthouses in the Red Sea will be commenced by the "Administration des Phares" next month.

I have, &c.

(Signed) M. DE BUNSEN.

Inclosure in No. 37.

Extract from the "Levant Herald" of December 19, 1900.

IT is announced this morning that the works for the construction of four lighthouses in the Red Sea, for the establishment of which a contract was passed in May last year between the Ottoman Government and the Lighthouse Administration, will begin in January next. In order to facilitate this work, the Administration have bought a special steamer, which will be made over to the Admiralty when the lighthouses are completed.

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* Copy to Cairo, India Office, and Board of Trade, January 2, 1901.